

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 L-02 SCSE-00

SCA-01 /019 W

----- 001326

R 210815Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS PEKING 289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES

SUBJECT: REPORT ON LOCAL LAWS ON DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

REF: STATE 33693

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO PEKING MAY OR MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE ELSEWHERE IN THE PRC.

2. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL: NO KNOWN LIMITATIONS. NDEMAINS OF FOREIGNERS ARE KEPT AT THE CAPITAL HOSPITAL UNTIL FUNERAL SERVICES

CREMATION OR SHIPMENT IS ARRANGED.

3. EMBALMING: EMBALMING FACILITIES EXIST. EMBALMING TAKES PLACE JUST PRIOR TO PLACEMENT OF REMAINS IN COFFIN.

4. CREMATION: CREMATION IS THE CUSTOMARY CHINESE METHOD OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS. THERE IS A FOREIGNERS CEMETERY OUTSIDE OF PEKING, BUT THE LAST INTERMENT TOOK PLACE IN THE 1960'S. WE DO NOT KNOW IF IT IS STILL AVAILABLE.

5. CASKETS AND CONTAINERS: (A) CASKETS ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE;
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THEY MUST BE CUSTOM MADE. CASKETS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR

CREMATION, BUT PY BE USED. TIME TO MAKE A CASKET IS APPROXIMATELY 48 HOURS.

(B) THERE ARE NO HERMETICALLY SEALED CONTAINERS AVAILABLE. THE CANADIANS STATE THE CHINESE CLAIM TO BE ABLE TO MANUFACTURE THEM. DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY TOKYO PERSONNEL USLO ASKED IF CONTAINERS AVAILABLE THERE FROM MILITARY FOR PRIVATE CITIZENS. WE ARE AWAITING REPLY AND COSTS.

6. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS: THERE ARE NO KNOWN RESTRICTIONS. CHINESE WILL PROVIDE DOCUMENT THAT CONTAINER OR URN CONTAINS REMAINS OR ASHES. IN CASE OF URNS, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT PROVIDE DOCUMENT THAT CERTIFIES THAT URN CONTAINS NOTHING BUT ASHES. (FYI BRITISH SURMOUNTED LATTER PROBLEM BY ARTFUL TRANSLATION UNDER CONSULAR SEAL OF CHINESE DUCUMENT. END FYI)

7. COSTS : STORAGE OF REMAINS AT CAPITAL HOSPITAHS'- US DOLS 2/DAY;
COST OF BURIAL - UNKNOWN; CREMATION WITHOUT EMBALMING OR COFFIN- US DOLS 25; CREMATION - WITH EMBALMING AND COFFIN - US DOLS 250
(THIS TOTAL IS DIFFICULT TO BREAK DOWN SINCE LUMP SUM PAYMENT IS MADE TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICES BUREAU, INCLUDES COFFIN
WS DOLS 150, URN
US DOLS 20, HOSPITAL AND EMBALMERS FEE, LABORERS TO MOVE COFFIN AND CREMATORIUM FEE), AIR FREIGHT COSTS FOR SHIPMENT OF BODY ARE US DOLS 8 PER KILO.

8. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT: UNKNOWN.

9. IN PEKING, CATHOLICCK PROTESTANT, AND MOSLEM SERVICES CAN BE ARRANGED WITH CHINESE SPEAKING PRIESTS. JEWSIH OR OTHER SERVICES NOT AVAILHLE. IF CHINESE PRIEST PROVIDED FOR SERVICE, SERVICE MU Z BE HELD IN CHINESE CHURCH. IF SERVICE DESIRED DLSEWHERE E.G. FOREIGN MISSION, CHINESE PRIEST WILL NOT ATTEND.

10. COMMENTS IN PARA 5 REFTTEL WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL.
BUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING00289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0960
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750223/aaaaaupl.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 33693
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT ON LOCAL LAWS ON DISPOSITION OF REMAINS
TAGS: CDES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006